



TIMOTHY WEBSTER

SPY OF THE
REBELLION

COMPLIMENTS OF

WILLIAM A. PINKERTON, Chicago,
ROBERT A. PINKERTON, New York.

NOVEMBER, 1906.

Pinkerton's National Detective Agency.

Founded by ALLAN PINKERTON, 1850.

WM. A. PINKERTON, Chicago, }
ROBT. A. PINKERTON, New York. } Principals.

GEO. D. BANGS,
General Manager, New York.
ALLAN PINKERTON,
Assistant General Manager
New York.

JOHN CORNISH, Manager, Eastern Division, New York.
EDWARD S. GAYLOR, Manager, Middle Division, Chicago.
JAMES MCPARLAND, Manager, Western Division, Denver.
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SAN FRANCISCO,	-	-	-	-	927 Eddy Street

ATTORNEYS FOR AGENCY.

CRAVATH, HENDERSON & DeGERSDORFF, NEW YORK.

This Agency is prepared to undertake all proper Detective business entrusted to it by Railroad or other Corporations, Banks, Mercantile Houses, Attorneys or Private Individuals. It does not operate for Rewards or engage in Divorce Cases.

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ALLAN PINKERTON,
Organizer and First Chief of U. S. Secret Service, War Department.
1860.





TIMOTHY WEBSTER,
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IMOTHY WEBSTER was born in New Haven, Sussex County, England, in the year 1821, and with his parents emigrated to the United States in 1833, locating at Princeton, N. J., learning the machinist trade. As he reached manhood, he took some interest in politics as a Jackson Democrat.

In 1853 he was appointed as a policeman at the World's Crystal Palace Exposition in New York City, was soon made Sergeant, and while in that position was introduced by James Leonard, then Captain (afterwards Inspector) of Police, New York City, to Mr. Allan Pinkerton, who, several years before, had founded Pinkerton's National Detective Agency in Chicago. Mr. Pinkerton because of Capt. Leonard's recommendation and Webster's evident ability and character offered him employment with his Agency at Chicago, which he accepted, remaining continuously with it until his death.

Early in 1861 Pinkerton's National Detective Agency was retained by S. M. Felton, then President of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, to investigate rumored intentions of Maryland secessionists to injure his railroad either by destroying the large ferry boat that carried the trains across the Susquehanna River at Havre de Grace, or the railroad bridges over the Gunpowder River. At that time the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore R. R. was the only direct link between Philadelphia and New York and the Capitol, the other route being the Northern Central Railroad from Harrisburg via Baltimore. While engaged secretly at Balti-

more, Md., on this work, and immediately following the election of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency, the plot to assassinate President Lincoln while enroute to Washington for inauguration was discovered by Webster, who joined the different societies then being formed in Baltimore by whom this intended assassination was being planned.

History tells of Mr. Lincoln's safe journey to the Capitol, under the direction of Allan Pinkerton, of the sensation in Washington on his unexpected arrival, and of the chagrin of the Baltimore plotters on learning that their intended victim had eluded their plottings.

Mr. Lincoln was at Harrisburg, and it was generally supposed he would go to the Capitol via the Northern Central R. R. to Baltimore, then over the B. & O. R. R. to Washington, instead of which, accompanied by Mr. Pinkerton and one of his aids, Mr. Lincoln very quietly left the reception held in his honor at Harrisburg, boarded a train to Philadelphia, where they without being noticed, boarded a train on the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore, enroute to Washington. Mr. Lincoln went to bed, and while he slept Mr. Pinkerton remained alert during the night, receiving signals as prearranged at different points where his men were located, assuring him all was right, the last coming from Webster at Baltimore.

On the outbreak of the rebellion President Lincoln appointed Allan Pinkerton Chief of the Secret Service, and he then organized the first United States Secret Service Division, located with and under General George B. Mc-

Clellan, then Commander of the Armies in the West with headquarters in Cincinnati. Mr. Pinkerton had with him a strong corps of detectives from Chicago, among them Timothy Webster, who visited Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi, while other men visited what is now known as West Virginia, then being part of Old Virginia, invading the camp of General Wise, then located at Harpers Ferry, Va., and all obtaining valuable information concerning the movements of the rebels in the West and Southwest.

After the Battle of Bull Run when Major General McClellan was transferred to the Army of the Potomac, and made Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Allan Pinkerton and his corps of detectives accompanied him to Washington. Webster, who was then located at Memphis, Tenn., had been offered the position of Colonel of the Second Arkansas Regiment, but declined, telling his friends he had decided to go to Richmond, and which intention he soon after carried out. Provided with letters from prominent people of Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, also from friends he met in Maryland while on his previous work, Webster made his way to Richmond, and was at once employed as a Special Agent by the Confederate War Department there under Mr. Benjamin, then Secretary of War, one of his duties being to convey the underground mail between the South and the North. He successfully made many trips between Richmond and Baltimore, via Washington, where the mail would be secretly opened, extracts made therefrom, and the let-

ters then carefully resealed for delivery to those for whom intended, and in this way the Union Government was advised of what was transpiring North and South in the interest of the Confederacy. The work becoming too heavy for Webster to handle alone, early in February, 1862, two assistants, Pryce Lewis, an Englishman of rather superior education, and John Scully, an Irishman, who had both worked as detectives for the Pinkerton Agency in Chicago, were sent from Washington to join Webster in Richmond, and successfully passed through the lines to Richmond, reporting to Webster, who was confined in bed with inflammatory rheumatism. Through mistake Mr. Stanton, then Secretary of War, and contrary to an understanding Mr. Pinkerton had had with President Lincoln and Secretary Stanton, Rose O'Neil Greenow, a prominent woman of Washington who had been arrested as a spy, and two other ladies named Levy of Washington, who had also been arrested for holding communication with the rebel capitol, were liberated from the female prison in Washington and sent by flag of truce boat to Richmond. Because of their knowing Lewis and Scully it had been decided that these women should not be released while they were in Virginia, but through one of the mistakes that occurred in those busy, troublesome times, this was overlooked, and proved fatal for Webster. The day of the arrival of Mrs. Greenow and her companions in Richmond at the Spotswood Hotel, they were surprised to see Lewis and Scully also guests of the hotel, but making no outcry, sent for de-

tectives who arrested the two men. There was, however, at that time, no suspicion whatever directed towards Webster, who as stated, was confined to his bed unable to move, with inflammatory rheumatism. Lewis and Scully were quickly tried by Court Martial, condemned to death as spies, and still although they had been seen in company with Webster, he stood so well that even this did not attract attention to him. On the night previous to the day for their execution, Scully being a Catholic, naturally sent for a priest, the Confederates sending a bogus priest, to whom Scully made confession, implicating Webster as the head in Richmond of the Secret Service for the United States Government. Lewis remained staunch, and did not confess, but Scully's confession resulted in the arrest of Webster, his trial and conviction by Court Martial, and sentence to death. By the order of President Jefferson Davis of the Southern Confederacy, on the 30th day of April, 1862, Webster was hanged in Richmond. Although in very weak physical condition, Webster met his fate bravely, his last words expressing a wish that "The Union might be preserved."

No braver nor truer man died during the War of the Rebellion than Timothy Webster.

